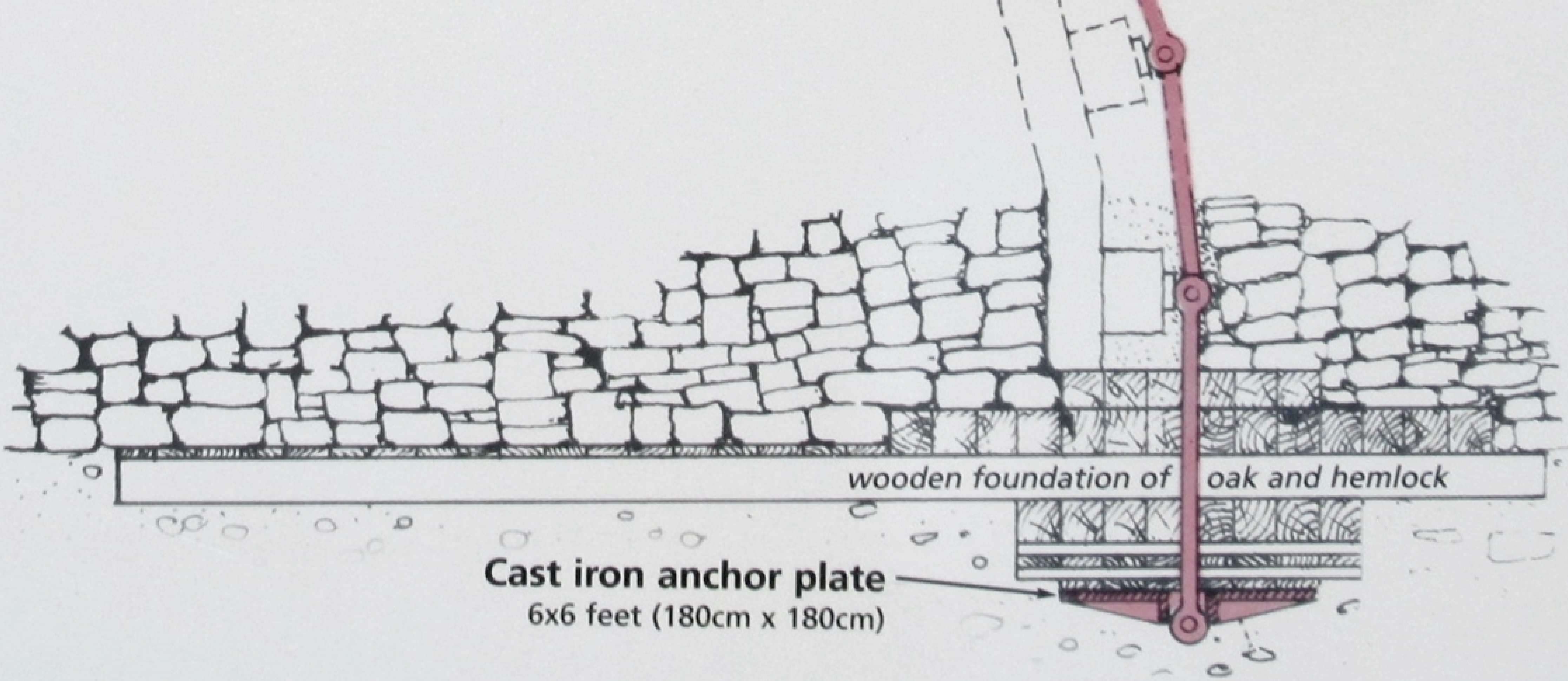
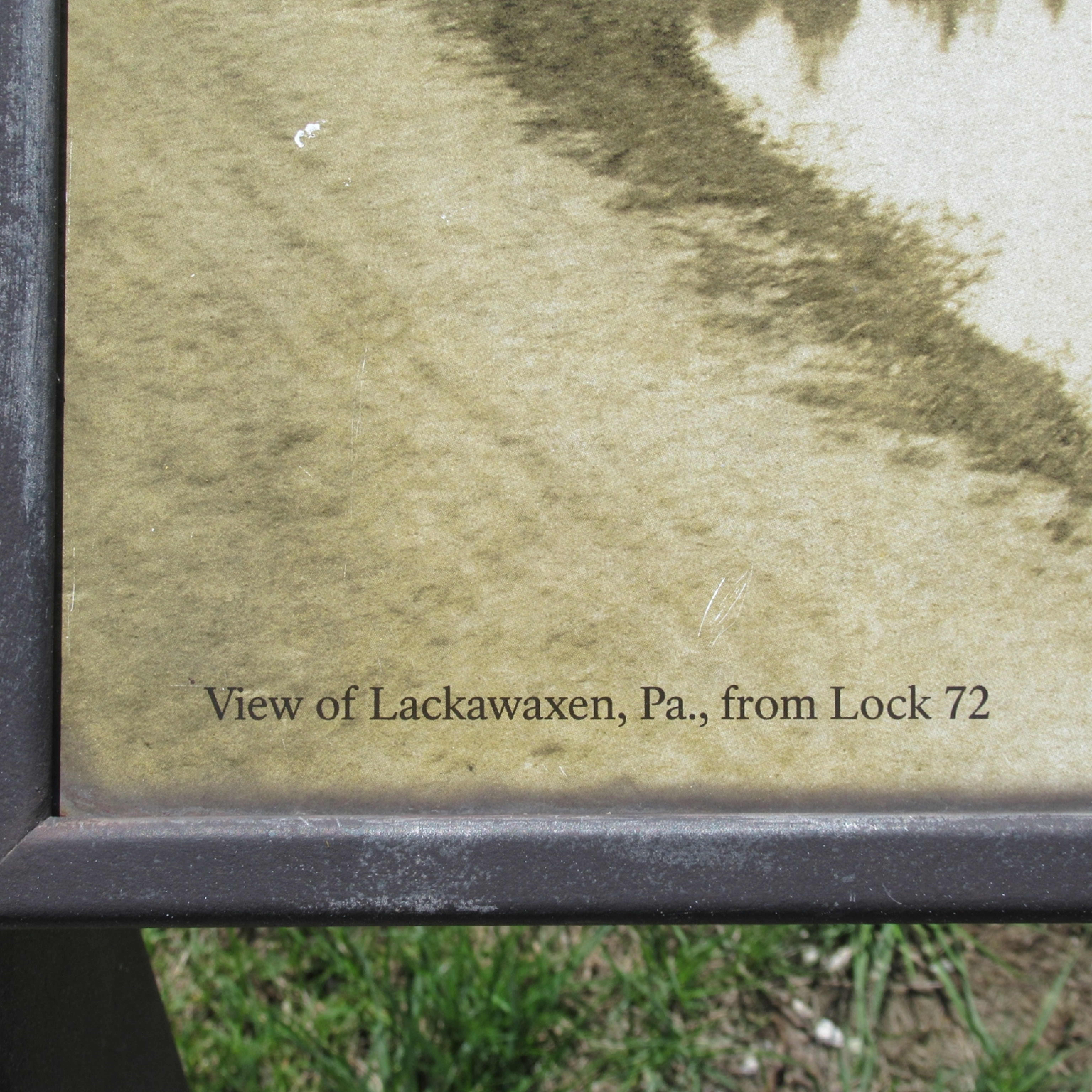

wooden foundation of oak and hemlock
Cast iron anchor plate
6x6 feet (180cm x 180cm)

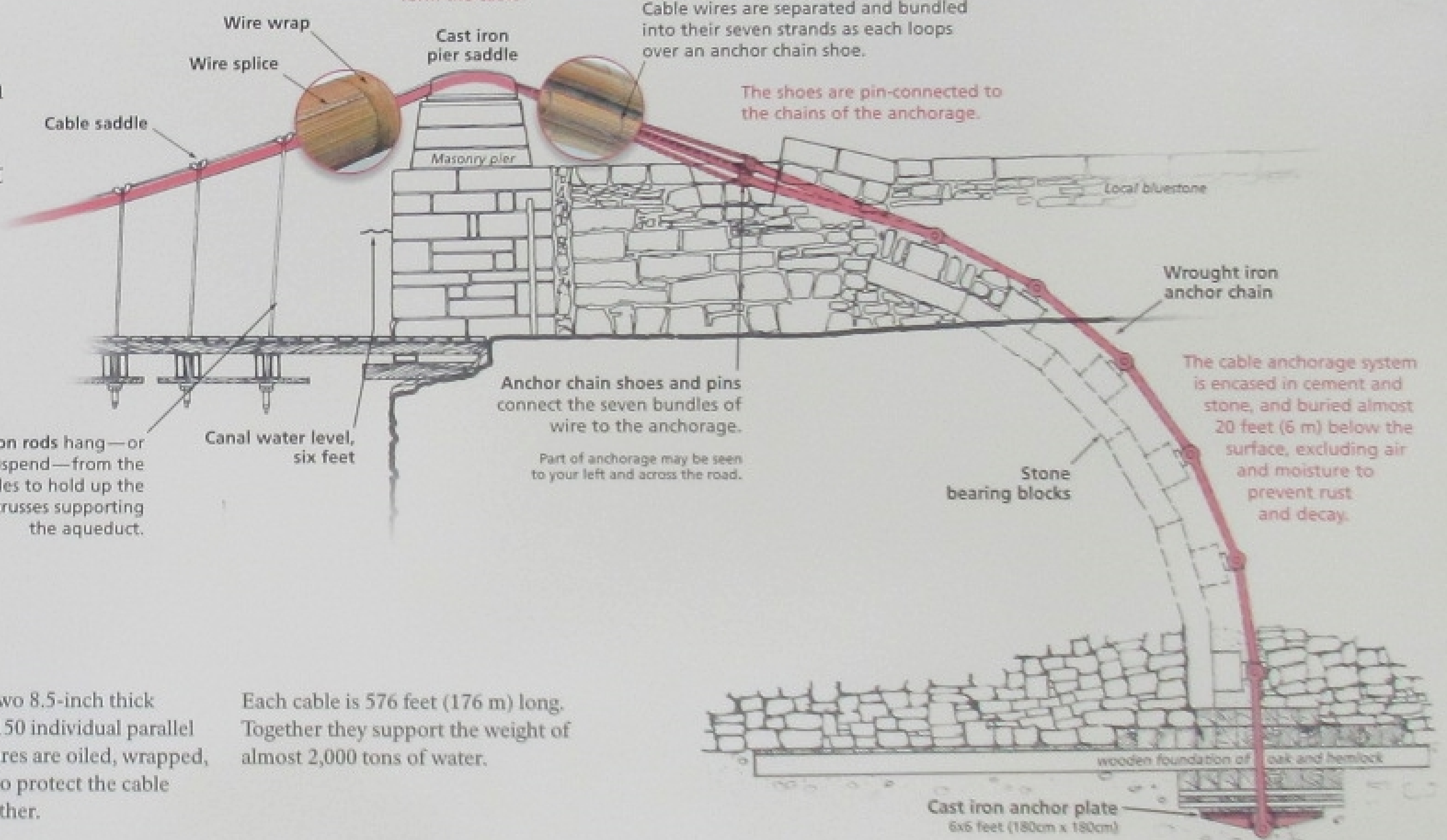
Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Life Along the Canal
The building and operation of the 108-mile Delaware & Hudson Canal provided a multitude of jobs not only for Dutch and English settlers but for Irish and German immigrants. The area hummed with activity. Laborers dug the canal with picks and shovels, blasted rock with black powder, and cut and laid stone for locks and walls. Others tended locks, kept canal records, and cared for mules. Boatyards, blacksmith shops, gristmills, taverns, inns, and all kinds of stores soon appeared along the canal.
SEASIDE SUPPLY STORE
Seaside Supply Store, in Wurt
New York, was typical of ma
multi-purpose houses built
the D&H Canal.
Photograph courtesy Delaware and Hudson Canal Historical Society
Boatmen, often joined by wives and children, worked 15 or more hours a day. Besides coal, they transported bluestone, lumber, and other local products to and from the Hudson.
View of Lackawaxen, Pa., from Lock 72


View of Lackawaxen, Pa., from Lock 72

# Roebling's Cable

John A. Roebling's legacy is based on his use of suspension cables to hold up bridges and aqueducts. He devised the technique of air spinning, which is still used today to build much larger spans. This former aqueduct is the nation's oldest existing wire cable suspension structure and the earliest of Roebling's works still standing. Though much of the aqueduct has been reconstructed, the cables and almost all the ironwork in the suspension system are original.

Look closely to your left and you may discover one of the hundreds of splices required to create each of the seven continuous strands of wire in this cable.



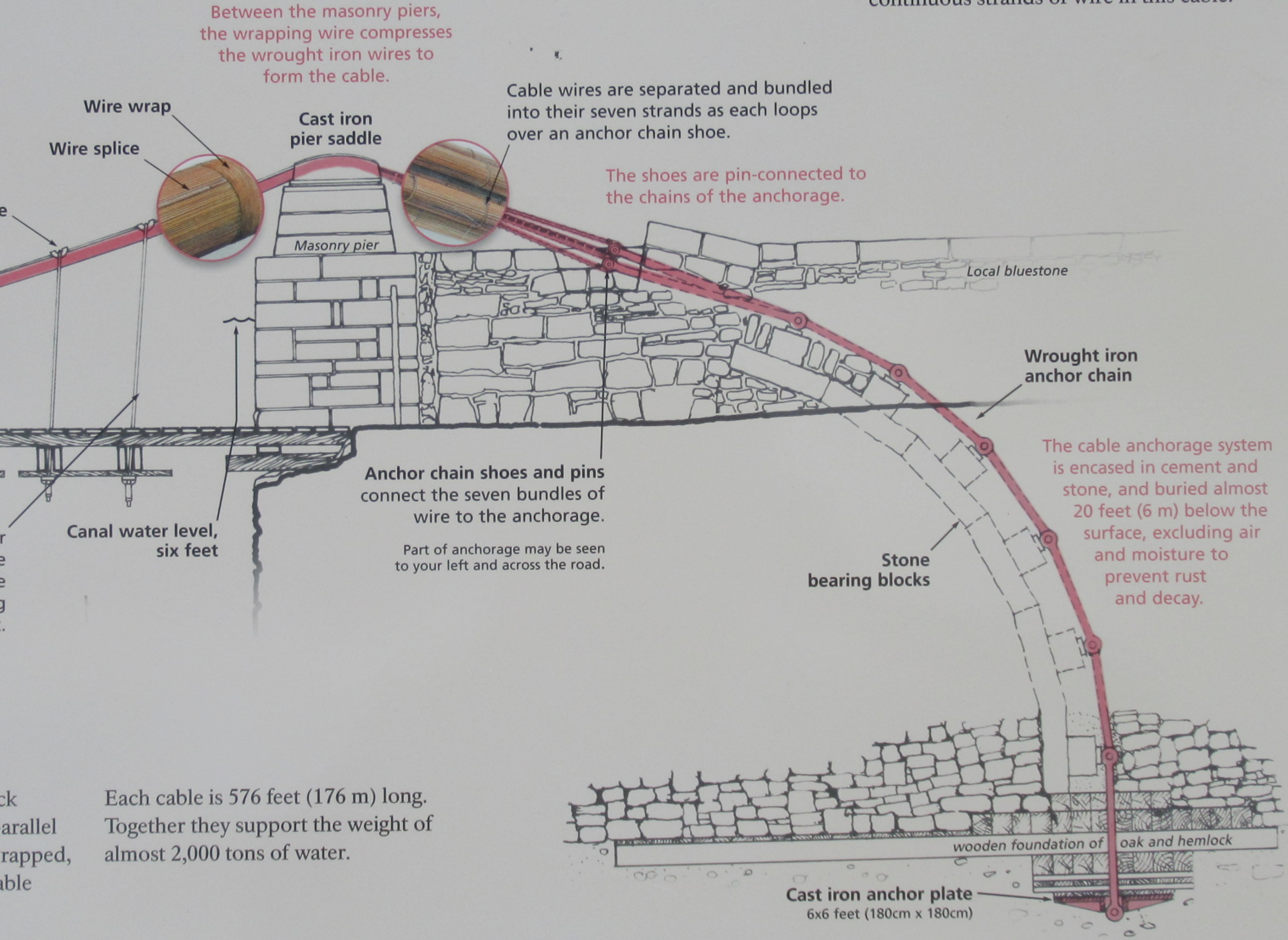

## Air Spinning—making the endless wire cable

Two at a time, ⅛-inch-thick wrought iron wires were shuttled across the river over the stone piers, looped over anchor chain shoes, then shuttled back to loop over the opposite set of anchor chain shoes. The end of one roll of wire was spliced to the beginning of the next roll of wire. Back and forth they went, splicing wires together as needed, until a bundle was created. Seven of these bundles make up a single cable.

Each of the two 8.5-inch thick cables has 2,150 individual parallel wires. The wires are oiled, wrapped, and painted to protect the cable from the weather.

Each cable is 576 feet (176 m) long. Together they support the weight of almost 2,000 tons of water.

Look closely to your left and you may discover one of the hundreds of splices required to create each of the seven continuous strands of wire in this cable.

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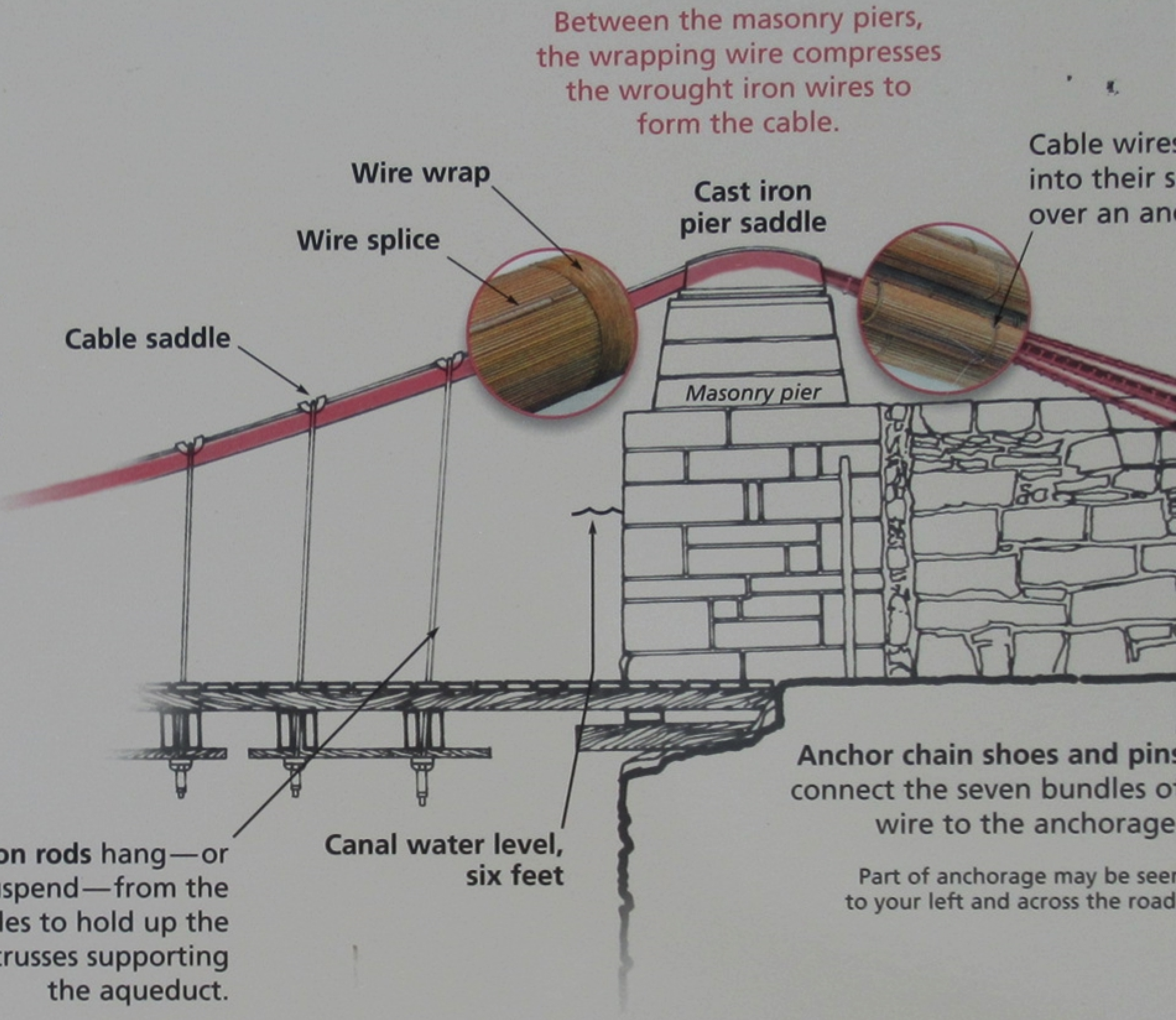


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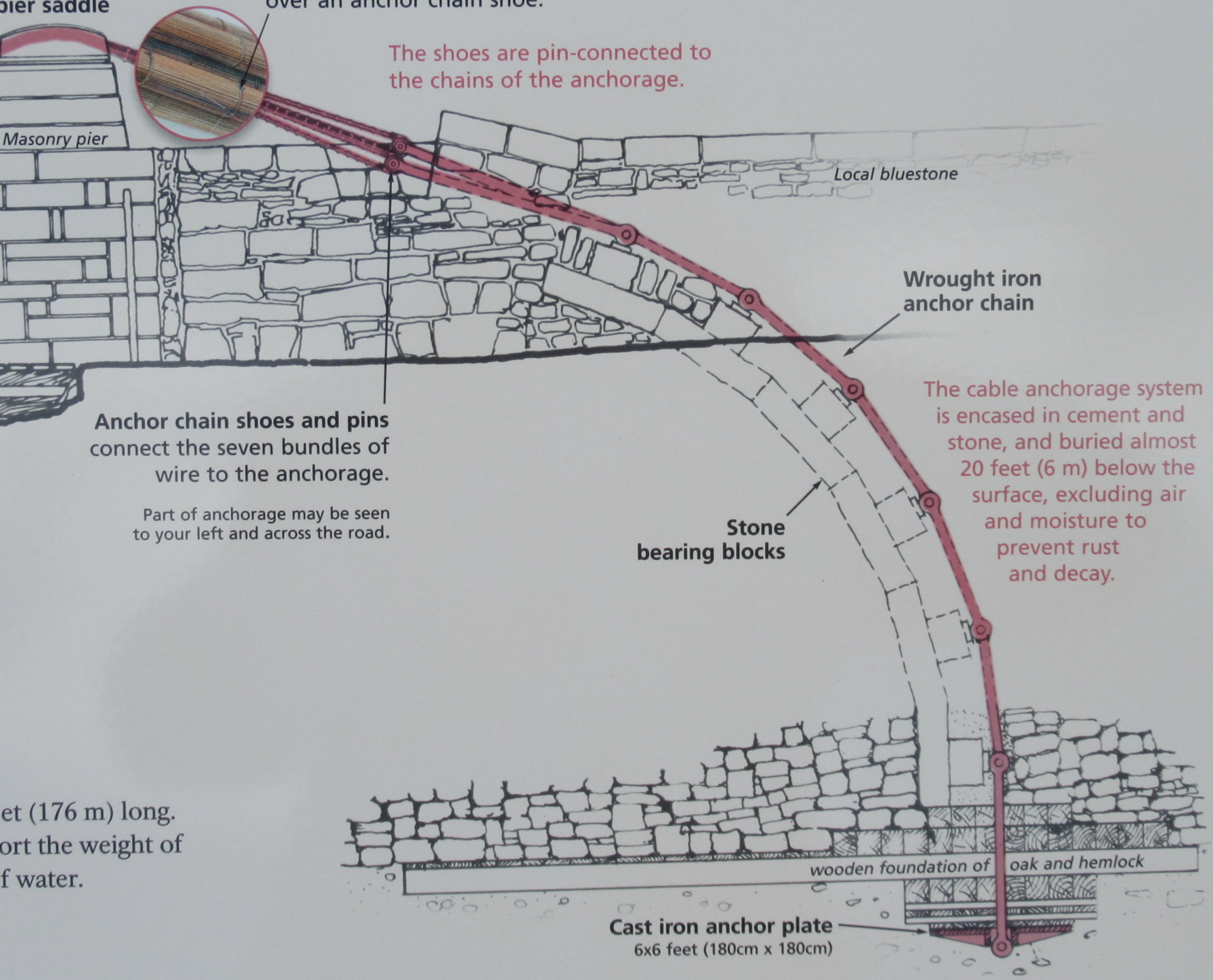
Cable wires are separated and bundled into their seven strands as each loops over an anchor chain shoe.

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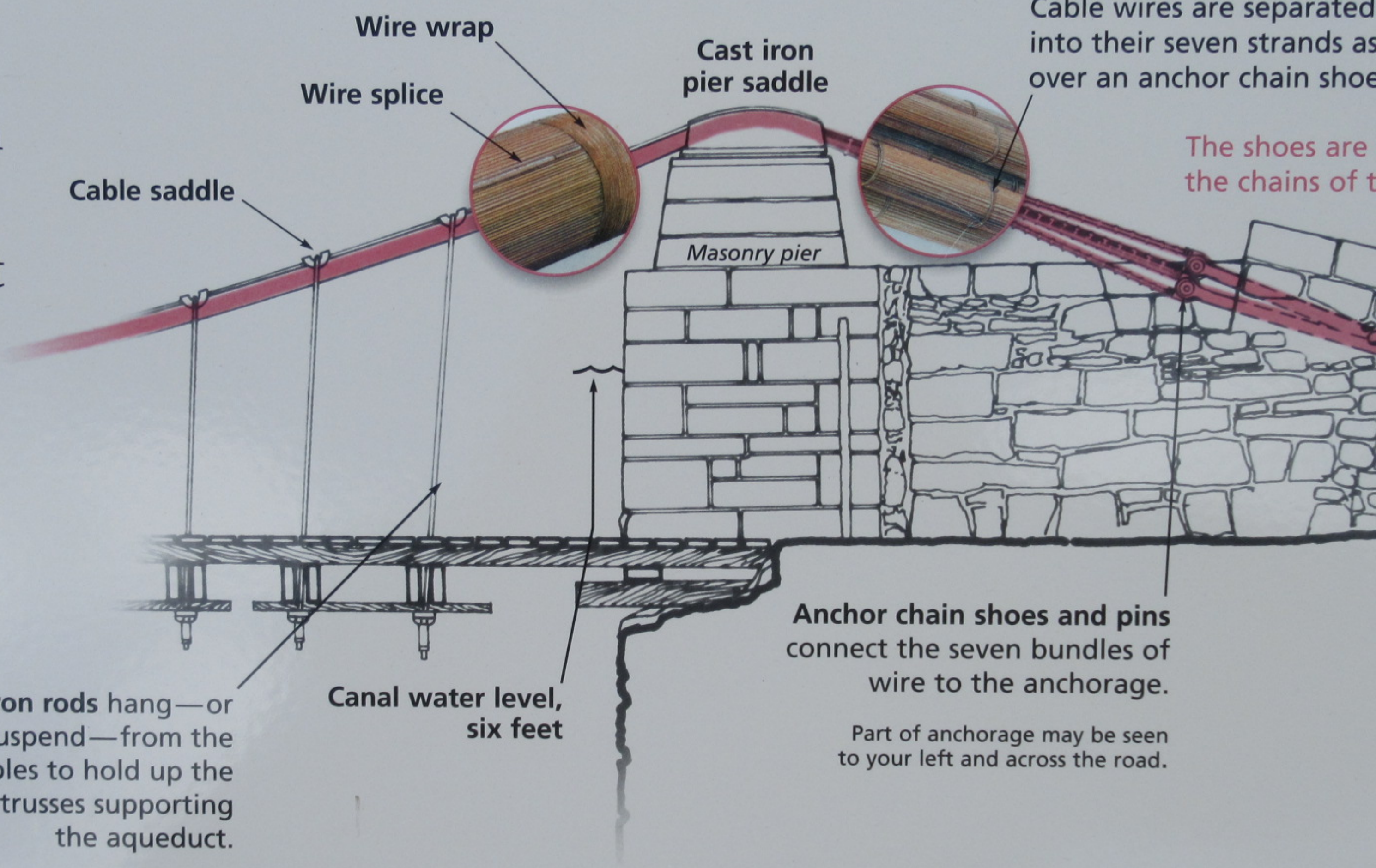


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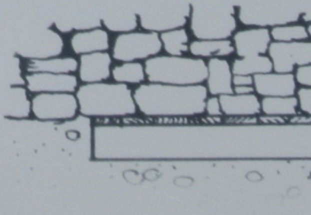

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R. F. LORD. { CHIEF ENGINEER.
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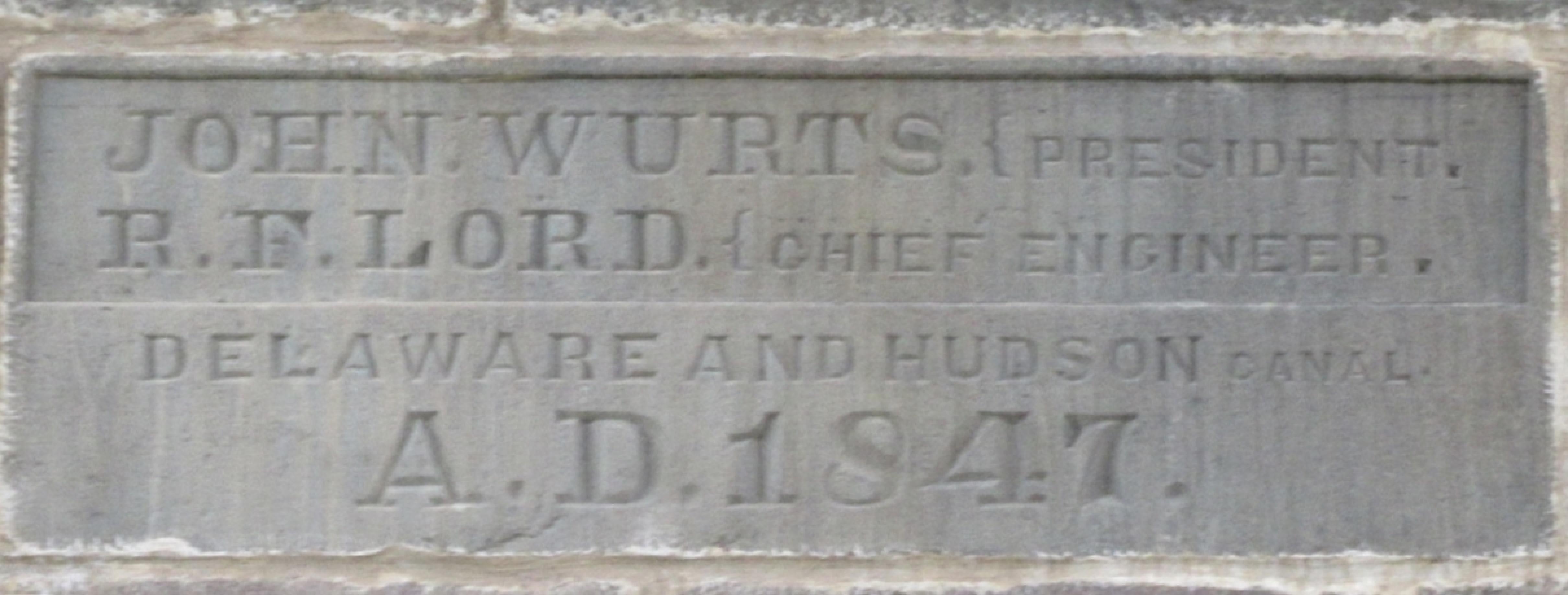
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